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Atty. Docket No.: P69450US0

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A stake bed assembly for a mortar buggy comprising:

a) a removable flat bed with an attached rear end wall and a subframe which allows the flat bed to be supported from a chassis of a mortar buggy from which a mortar hopper has been removed, said flat bed having a plurality of vertical and horizontal stakeholders along side edges thereof which can receive stake members;

b) left and right removable side panels each having at least two stake members attached to said panels which extend beyond one edge of each said panels for selective insertion into said vertical stakeholders to form a hopper or into said horizontal stakeholders to form an extended flat bed;

c) a front tailgate attachable to a front edge of said side panels and flat bed when said stake members on said side panels are set into the vertical stakeholders; and

d) a pair of left and right swing-out arms hingedly supported from said flat bed to support said left and right side panels when said stake members are inserted into said horizontal stakeholders to form said extended flat bed.

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2. (Previously Presented) The stake bed assembly for a mortar buggy of claim 1 wherein said front tailgate is pivotally supported such that it can be hinged to swing away from the side panels at its top or bottom.

3. (Cancelled).

4. (Original) The stake bed assembly for a mortar buggy of claim 1 wherein said left and right panels have a securing hole and said swing-out arms have a securing hole to secure each swing-out arm in position underneath its respective panel.

5. (Cancelled).

6. (Cancelled).

7. (Previously Presented) The stake bed assembly of claim 1 wherein the side panels, rear end wall and front tailgate, fit snugly together to form a solid wall hopper capable of carrying loose or granular materials.

Claims 8-28 (Cancelled).

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29. (New) The stake bed assembly for a mortar buggy of claim 1 wherein said front tailgate is attachable to the side panels and subframe of the flat bed when both side panels are set into the vertical stakeholders of the subframe in a vertical orientation such that the front tailgate can be hinged to swing away from the side panels and subframe either from the top or the bottom.

30. (New) The stake bed assembly for a mortar buggy of claim 1 wherein said front tailgate is attachable to the subframe of the flat bed when both side panels are set in a horizontal orientation to form extensions on said flat bed.

31. (New) The stake bed assembly for a mortar buggy of claim 1 wherein said front tailgate can be attached to the subframe of the flat bed when the side panels are removed.

32. (New) The stake bed assembly for a mortar buggy of claim 1 wherein said front tailgate is made of solid steel or other alloy and has stakes that are welded thereto to provide strength and rigidity.

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33. (New) The stake bed assembly for a mortar buggy of claim 1 wherein said front tailgate is attached to the side panels and the subframe of the flat bed at all four corners through the use of a hinge pin system.

34. (New) The stake bed assembly for a mortar buggy of claim 1 wherein said stake bed assembly is configured for pivoted attachment to a wheeled chassis.

35. (New) The stake bed assembly for a mortar buggy of claim 1, wherein said side walls have a securing component and said swing-out arms have a cooperating securing component to secure each swing-out arm in position underneath its respective side wall.

36. (New) The stake bed assembly for a mortar buggy of claim 1, further comprising projections on a back edge of said removable side walls which cooperate with generally vertical slots in said rear wall to secure said side walls to said rear wall when said stake projections are received in said vertical stakeholders.

37. (New) The stake bed assembly for a mortar buggy of claim 1, wherein said tailgate when folded down generally planar to

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said flat bed expands said extended flat bed when said side panel stake members are inserted in said horizontal stakeholders.

38. (New) The stake bed assembly for a mortar buggy as claimed in claim 1, wherein side edges of said flat bed and bottom edges of said side walls include connecting structure to support said side walls selectively in vertical and horizontal laterally extending positions in relation to said flat bed.

39. (New) The stake bed assembly for a mortar buggy as claimed in claim 38, wherein said side walls in said horizontal position increase an effective width of a supporting surface formed by said flat bed.

40. (New) A stake bed assembly for a mortar buggy comprising:

a) a removable flat bed with a rear end wall supported from a chassis of a mortar buggy from which a mortar hopper has been removed, said flat bed having vertical and horizontal stakeholders along side edges thereof which can receive stake members;

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b) left and right removable side panels each having at least two stake members attached thereto which extend beyond one edge of each said panels for insertion into said vertical stakeholders to form a hopper or into said horizontal stakeholders to form an extended flat bed;

c) a front tailgate attachable to said side panels and flat bed when said stake members on said side panels are set into the vertical stakeholders; and

d) swing-out arms hingedly supported from said flat bed to support said left and right side panels when said stake members are inserted into said horizontal stakeholders to form said extended flat bed.

41. (New) The stake bed assembly for a mortar buggy of claim 40 wherein said front tailgate is pivotally supported such that it can be hinged to swing away from the side panels at its top or bottom.

42. (New) The stake bed assembly for a mortar buggy of claim 40 wherein said side walls have a securing component and said swing-out arms have a cooperating securing component to secure each swing-out arm in position underneath its respective side wall.

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43. (New) The stake bed assembly for a mortar buggy of claim 40, further comprising projections on a back edge of said removable side walls which cooperate with generally vertical slots in said rear wall to secure said side walls to said rear wall when said stake projections are received in said vertical stakeholders.

44. (New) The stake bed assembly for a mortar buggy of claim 40, wherein said tailgate when folded down generally planar to said flat bed expands said extended flat bed when said side panel stake members are inserted in said horizontal stakeholders.